Welcome
This lushly wooded 3,453-acre park is nestled between Saratoga and Skyline Boulevard in the Santa Cruz Mountains. This mountain park of redwoods and tanoak offers hiking, camping, RV camping, and picnicking opportunities year-round. Enjoy your visit today and return often to experience the many features of Sanborn County Park.

How to Get There
Sanborn County Park is located on Sanborn Road. From Saratoga, proceed 2 miles west on Highway 9 to Sanborn Road. Turn left onto Sanborn Road, traveling 1 mile to the park entrance.

Activities
Hikers, picnickers, and campers will find Sanborn Park has much to offer. For experienced hikers, Sanborn Park has over 22 miles of trails that showcase the park’s geographic features. The John Nicholas Trail offers a shaded, easy hike between Lake Ranch and Black Road. Picnic tables are available year-round in the forty-acre, grass-covered, dog use area. For large gatherings, there are three group areas available by reservation. For reservations, please call (408) 355-2201. During the summer, the park is home to Silicon Valley’s only outdoor Shakespearean company, Silicon Valley Shakespeare, visit their website at www.svshakespeare.org.

Camping
• Gate closes at sunset. Re-entry is allowed for campers. Campers must ask park staff for the current gate combination at the park.
• Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. Please respect your neighbors.
• Check out time is 1 p.m.
• Two vehicles allowed per campsite, additional vehicles permitted at $10/day per vehicle.
• Two campsites maximum per person/household.
• Persons under 18 years of age may not camp without an adult.
• RV Sites: Maximum capacity 8 persons. No tents allowed. Recreational vehicles must have water and electrical hookups.
• Hike-in/Tent Sites: Maximum capacity 6 persons. Tent camps closed from the 3rd Sunday in October to the 3rd Friday of March.
• Camping length of stay limit: Memorial Day through Labor Day—14 days maximum Remainder of year—14 days maximum within a 45-day period
• Camp in designated sites only.
• No car camping permitted at Sanborn County Park.
• Tents are allowed in the hike-in sites only.
• Do not dig or level the ground around tents or camp sites.
• Do not damage any park property or vegetation.
• No hammocks allowed in the campgrounds.
• Fires are permitted in designated fire rings only. Do not gather wood.
• Extinguish fires when unattended. When posted “NO FIRES,” only camp stoves or gas grills are permitted.
• Garbage must be disposed of immediately. Keep your site clean.
• Pets may not be unattended or left in vehicle and must be confined on authorized trails. No riding in hike-in campground.
• Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the park.

Natural Diversity
The main geologic feature of Sanborn Park is the San Andreas Fault, which cuts diagonally through the park along Lyndon Canyon, Lake Ranch, and Sanborn Road. It is said that during the 1906 earthquake, this old fault line moved. The lake Ranch Reservoir "shook like a horse trough and emptied much of its water" and that some streams changed their course. The park’s ecosystem is influenced by coastal summer fog and accompanying breaks off the summit. The park has predominantly north-facing slopes. This exposure supports a mixed evergreen forest of oak, madrone, Douglas fir, tanoak, and redwood. Understory plant species include poison oak, toyon, ceanothus, and manzanita.

Wildlife benefit from these complex and complementary habitats and plant communities. Common animals include rabbits, raccoons, coyotes, black-tailed deer, bobcats, kestrels, red-tailed hawks, hummingbird, jays, and wrens. Learn more about the park’s natural diversity by signing up for a County Park program at parkhere.org or a Youth Science Institute program at www.yoi.ca.org.

Cultural History
Sanborn County Park has a rich history ranging from the cultures of the ancestors of local tribes through the homesteading era of the 1850s to the present day. For over 3,000 years before the Spanish expeditions arrived, local tribes visited the Sanborn Park area to hunt, fish, and gather food. Several bedrock mortars and associated settlement sites are scattered throughout the park.

The Sanborn Park area was not a part of any Spanish Ranchos. At the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848, these unclaimed lands became the property of the U.S. Government. The first settlers acquired land under the Homestead Act of 1862, which granted up to 160 acres. The lands were initially cleared for lumber and tan bark and later for farming, orcharding, and vineyards.

The abundant timber stands attracted many to the area. Supplies were carried up to lumber camps by mules over pack trails, some of which are used as hiking trails today. Some of the typical crops included grapes, olives, olive trees, and walnuts. Many of the early settlers were French, Italian, and German, and many of the creeks, roads, and landmarks carry the names of these early settlers.

By the 1870s, there were many farms along Sanborn Road, then known as Lake Ranch Road. Kendall Clark Sanborn, a native of Maine, owned a small piece of property in the Sanborn Park area in 1871.

Baille barn circa 1912. Mrs. Dyer (far left), Baille family and friends. Photo: H.P. Dyer, courtesy of Saratoga Historical Foundation.

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